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U.S. Application No. 09/926,598
Amendment**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for determining timings for buy/sell decisions for financial instruments, the method comprising:

identifying one or more instruments, each of the one or more instruments comprising at least a financial asset or at least a tradeable security;

determining technical strength of each of the one or more instruments based on market characteristics associated with that instrument, the market characteristics comprising one or more trade volumes, one or more trade prices and one or more directions of movements of trade prices;

ranking the one or more instruments based upon their technical strengths;

determining fundamental strength of each of the one or more instruments;

ranking the one or more instruments based upon their fundamental strengths; and

generating at least a buy signal or at least a sell signal for at least one of the one or more instruments based on the technical strength ranking and the fundamental strength ranking.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more trade volumes comprising at least one volume index which is calculated as a ratio of actual trade volume over a length of time to average trade volume over that length of time.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 wherein a table is created listing one or more volume indices over a predetermined period of time of the one or more instruments, respectively, in ascending or descending order.

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4. (Cancel)

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein an instrument from the one or more instruments having a combination of high volume index and upward price movement is determined to be having upward technical strength or momentum up or both.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein an instrument from the one or more instruments having high volume index and downward price movement is determined to be having downward technical strength or momentum down or both.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the fundamental strength is determined based on at least market sector or at least possible market capitalization.

8. (Cancel)

9. (Currently Amended) A system for determining timings for buy/sell decisions for financial instruments, the system comprising:
a computer readable medium which stores instructions executable by at least one processor to

identify one or more instruments, each of the one or more instruments comprising at least a financial asset or at least a tradeable security,
determine ~~technical strength of market characteristics for~~ each of the one or more instruments ~~based on market characteristics associated with that instrument,~~ the market characteristics comprising one or more trade volumes, one or more trade prices and one or more directions of movements of trade prices,
compute at least one volume index for the each of the one or more instruments which is calculated as a ratio of actual trade volume over a length of

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time to average trade volume over that length of time for the each of the one or more instruments.

rank the one or more instruments based upon their technical strengths using at least combination of the volume indices and the directions of movements of trade prices,

determine fundamental strength of each of the one or more instruments,

rank the one or more instruments based upon their fundamental strengths,

generate automatically at least a buy signal or at least a sell signal for at least one of the one or more instruments based upon whether its [the] technical strength ranking rank exceeds a predetermined threshold and whether its [the] fundamental strength ranking rank exceeds a predetermined threshold, and output information associated with the generated signal.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium which stores instructions executable by at least one processor to determine timings for buy/sell decisions for financial instruments by performing steps of:

identifying one or more instruments, each of the one or more instruments comprising at least a financial asset or at least a tradeable security;

determining ~~technical strength of~~ market characteristics for each of the one or more instruments based on recorded market characteristics associated with that instrument, the market characteristics comprising one or more trade volumes, one or more trade prices and one or more directions of movements of trade prices;

computing at least one volume index for the each of the one or more instruments which is calculated as a ratio of actual trade volume over a length of time to average trade volume over that length of time for the each of the one or more instruments,

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ranking the one or more instruments based upon their technical strengths using at least combination of the volume indices and the directions of movements of trade prices;

determining fundamental strength of each of the one or more instruments;

ranking the one or more instruments based upon their fundamental strengths; and

generating at least a buy signal or at least a sell signal for at least one of the one or more instruments based upon whether its [the] technical strength ranking rank exceeds a predetermined threshold and whether its [the] fundamental strength ranking rank exceeds a predetermined threshold.

Cancel claims 11 – 30.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying at least a subset of the one or more instruments for which technical strength meets a predetermined threshold.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the determining the fundamental strength comprises:

comparing the one or more of the group of the selected variables with one or more predetermined benchmarks, respectively.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32 further comprising determining whether the instrument exhibits bullish or bearish behavior based upon the comparing.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the group of the selected variables for the determining the fundamental strength comprises:

(i) Dividend yield.

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35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the group of the selected variables for the determining the fundamental strength comprises:

- (ii) NTA/Price
- (iii) P/E
- (iv) P/EBITDAPS
- (v) P/EVAPS
- (vi) Discount to Historical High or Premium to Historical Low
- (vii) Gearing level
- (viii) Discount/Premium to Brokers' Recommended Buy/Sell Price
- (ix) Price to sales per asset or security
- (x) Market capitalisation
- (xi) Stocks which are market leaders or have a position of market dominance or high market share in their respective industry/principal market
- (xii) Stocks which had return on shareholders' equity greater than amount say 15% per annum or 25% per annum in last/X financial year or financial quarter
- (xiii) Stocks which have high quality credit rating from rating agencies
- (xiv) Identify stocks as per pre-selected categories of credit ratings
- (xv) Stocks which have low or high (on a relative basis) P/CFPS where CFPS is per share free cash flow defined by earnings plus depreciation minus capital spending minus dividends
- (xvi) Stocks which have low volatility or high volatility
- (xvii) Stocks where top executives or top 20 shareholders have significant shareholding in the company
- (xviii) Stocks which are at a premium/discount to industry group or an overall market based on various criteria
- (xix) Stocks which have high/low gross margins
- (xx) Stocks which have a debt level less/more than industry benchmark or S&P 500 or any other appropriate benchmarks
- (xxi) Stocks which have a good/erratic track record of profitability

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(xxii) Stocks where inventories are declining/increasing

(xxiii) Stocks where major new products/services have been launched or where new management is in place

(xxiv) Stocks where insiders are selling more than average or where insiders are buying more than average. Identify stocks where institutional sponsors are increasing/decreasing

(xxv) Stocks where there is growth/decline in physical volumes of sales or production or inventories

(xxvi) Stocks where profit margins are rising (buy opportunity/signal/tip) or falling (sell opportunity/signal/tip), stocks where return on capital employed is higher/lower than an industry benchmark and stocks where earnings/revenue is higher/lower than an industry benchmark

(xxvii) Stocks which have a higher/lower than benchmark/average growth in sales/profits/physical volumes/inventories

(xxviii) Stockmarkets of countries where economic conditions are better or worse than before. For inter-stockmarket comparisons volume indicator in value or dollar terms may be used for computation of volume index

(xxix) Stocks which have a low cost structure defined by operating cost per unit produced or by other criteria

(xxx) Stocks which have higher than average growth rate in earnings per share (EPS), net tangible asset backing per share (NTA), gross cash flow per share (GCF), dividends per share (DPS)

(xxxi) Among certain sectors like bank stocks certain specific criteria may be created eg. Total Income/Average Assets, Operating Costs/Average Assets, Bad Debt Charge/Average Assets. These criteria may be stated as higher or lower relative to a benchmark

(xxxii) Stocks of distressed firms with negative earnings or negative book values

(xxxiii) Make international comparisons of relativities as per various criteria spelt out and as per criteria which may be added/introduced later

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(xxxiv) Other criteria for value selection like Benjamin Graham's criteria or 200-day moving average comparisons or any other criteria of selection may be introduced in the program.

36. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the instructions are executable by the at least one processor to perform further step of determining an instrument from the one or more instruments having a combination of high volume index and upward price movement to be having upward technical strength or momentum up or both.

37. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the instructions are executable by the at least one processor to perform further step of determining an instrument from the one or more instruments having high volume index and downward price movement to be having downward technical strength or momentum down or both.

38. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the fundamental strength is determined based on at least market sector or at least possible market capitalization.